المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

11 September 1991

Mr Andrew Faulds MP
House of Commons
London SW1A OAA

Dear Mr Faulds,

Thank you for your letter of 29 July. This has only recently reached me on my return from abroad.

We are now particularly concerned with the lifting of sanctions against Iraq because of the terrible hardship that the ordinary people are suffering and the clear likelihood of widespread famine and many thousand fatalities, especially of children (there are 200,000 under the age of 4 and the most vulnerable) if the situation does not improve rapidly. To my mind only the lifting of sanctions can made any real impression now.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you in the near future.
With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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ANDREW FAULDS MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
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AF/SA

29 July 1991

Your Excellency,

I am sorry to have been so long delayed in replying to your letter of 27 January but I had so much supportive correspondence about my speech on the Gulf War that I am still personally dealing with each letter. I much appreciate your letter of support for that speech.

It has become even clearer since the War that it was a worthless exercise. Kuwait may have been freed but appalling abuses of human rights have followed the 'liberation' of that country. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds and Shi'ias, who were urged to revolt by President Bush, have suffered as they took his advice and tried to throw off Saddam. The plight of both communities is still highly risky and Saddam, whom the operation was mounted to get rid of, is still in power and probably more strongly ensconced. Had the advice that a number of us in the House tried to urge - that sanctions should be imposed and maintained until his downfall - it is likely that the massive support for Saddam throughout the Arab world would not have risen as it has done. Many Arab countries now see him as the great hero who stood up to the immense technological might of the western world.

Sanctions, of course, are still in place and the British and Americans seem unprepared even to let humanitarian aid get through to the under nourished proportion of the population, largely children and old people. There has not been a single good outcome of that war, launched in the name of justice. Although we in the so called 'Alliance' suffered remarkably few casualties, the losses of soldiers and civilians in Iraq were horrendous, a great number of those losses being from aerial attacks which went adrift and the obscene massacre at the Mitla Pass in South Eastern Iraq of soldiers in flight. It is a pity that so few people in the House of Commons have any sensitivity towards the feelings of other cultures and religions. One of the worst aspects of the War was its release of such appalling anti-muslim feeling which was totally unacceptable.

It would be good if we could meet up and have a chat about this matter.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

Andrew Faulds

Mr Salem Azzam
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